(a) whether the Space TV company has applied for grant of DTH licence and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry of Company Affairs has stated that application of the Space TV is against DTH guidelines;

(c) whether the Ministry of Company Affairs has also commented on the pattern of the shareholder agreement between Tata Sons and Star TV Group for Space TV application for DTH and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have finally decided to reject the Space TV application for DTH licence and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Government has received an application for grant of DTH licence from M/s Space TV, which is a joint venture of M/s Tata Sons and M/s Network Digital Distribution Services (NDDS).

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Company Affairs has made certain observations on the shareholders' agreement between M/s Tata Sons and M/s NDDS, in the context of the DTH guidelines and provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. M/s Space TV have now been asked to furnish the requisite details to facilitate further examination of their application.

Telecasting by Bangalore DD Kendra

4110. SHRI K B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the steps taken by the Bangalore Doordarshan Kendra to revive the daily movie programme and telecast of quality Kannada films?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Prasar Bharati has informed that revival of this slot is dependent upon the overall programme requirements of the Kendra and availability of Kannada films offered by the rights holders as per Doordarshan's current rate structure.

Co-production agreements

4111. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to sign Co-production Agreements with Italy followed by France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Singapore for providing liberal shooting conditions abroad at subsidized tariffs for Indian film makers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to initiate for a policy decision for creation of a single window system for shooting films at locations of their choice: and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) This Ministry has received proposals from certain countries to enter into Audio-visual Co-production Agreements on Government to Government basis. Letters of Intent/MoU have been signed with the Government of Canada, Italy, China and the United Kingdom expressing the intention of the Government to enter into Audio-visual Co-production Agreements with each other.

Entering into such agreements with other countries would enable producers of both countries to pool their financial, creative, technical and marketing resources, and in providing access to a wider audience base. They would also promote higher visibility in international markets for Indian films and increased opportunities for the animation sector.

Entering into Co-production Agreements with other countries would also confer to the film produced under such Agreement, the status of a National Production and obtain for it all benefits available to a film produced in that country. To that extent Indian filmmakers would stand to benefit. While in several countries like United Kingdom and Singapore subsidized tariffs are already available for foreign filmmakers, there is no specific provision for subsidized tariffs in all cases.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the nodal Ministry for granting permissions for shooting of foreign feature films/co-productions in India. Based on this permission the State Governments/concerned authorities grant further permissions.

In 2004, after detailed inter-ministerial consultations, the guidelines for shooting of foreign feature films and co-productions in India have been

liberalized to make them more facilitative. As against twelve weeks taken earlier, permission to shoot is now given in three weeks where shooting is in non-sensitive areas. Further, procedure for script clearance has been streamlined and requirement for attachment of a liaison officer with the shooting team and preview of the completed film is not mandatory.

Private players for DTH services

4112. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open up Doordarshan's DTH to private players;

(b) if so, the rules and regulations laid down for the purpose especially to exclude uncalled for obscenity, crime and violence from DTH; and

(c) whether any private players have applied for such DTH services, if so, the details of the applications and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Doss not arise.

(c) For operation of Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcasting service [other than Ku band transmission of Doordarshan], five applications have been received so far of which M/s A.S.C. Enterprises have been granted the licence.

The other four applicants, whose applications are under consideration, are:

1. Essel, Shyam Communications Limited
2. Space TV. Private Ltd.
3. Sun Direct TV. Private Ltd., and
4. Noida Software Technology Park Ltd.

DTH project of DD

4113. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: